

ADDED CLAIMS

Please add the following claims.

11. (New) A method for connecting a subscriber to a service provider over a communications network, comprising:
maintaining a first connection between a subscriber and a service provider while the subscriber is connected to the service provider; and
intermittently setting up a second connection between the subscriber and the service provider when transmitting data between the subscriber and the service provider,
wherein the first and second connections are associated together.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the first connection is to a point of presence server of an Internet service provider over a D-channel.

13. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the second connection is a B-channel connection.

14. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising
charging for service by the service provider for each time interval in which the second connection is intermittently set up.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, further comprising

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clearing down the second connection after the end of data transmission and
approximately when the time interval has already been charged.